

# Meet the members of I Tromboni

NEAL BENNETT, LANGLEY, BRITISH COLUMBIA, ALTO AND TENOR TROMBONE

**NEAL BENNETT** established himself as a top-notch performer and all-round musician before becoming a founding member of I Tromboni. His studies, which include the Premiere Prix from the Montreal Conservatory under the tutelage of Alain Trudel and a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of British Columbia while studying with Doug Sparkes, have taken him to the US and Europe. Neal is the recipient of the Canada Council A Grant for artists and several full fellowships from UBC. He is an accomplished soloist and commercial musician performing with ensembles such as the West Coast Symphony Orchestra, the Pacific Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Vancouver's Hard Rubber Orchestra. Neal brings a soloist's sensibilities, red-hot high chops and breathtaking virtuosity.

JIM TRANQUILLA, FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, TENOR TROMBONE & EUPHONIUM

Despite taking second prize in a Grade 5 science fair, **JIM TRANQUILLA** has managed to persevere. A founding member of I Tromboni, Jim is emerging as a leader and rising star in the Vancouver music scene. After completing his Masters of Music Degree under the leadership of Gordon Cherry and having received the honor of Baccalaureate Soloist at the University of British Columbia, he won the Tenor Trombonist position with the Vancouver Opera Orchestra. He enjoys chamber and orchestral opportunities with groups such as the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Turning Point Ensemble, BC Chamber Orchestra, A Touch of Brass and the Vancouver Brass Project. Jim also works diligently with young musicians as a sought-after educator and clinician and was Assistant Director of the UBC Summer Music Institute for several seasons. Known for his beautifully intimate tone, Jim adds a personal, almost vocal approach to the trombone with flare to spare.

FRANÇOIS LÉVESQUE, RIVIÈRE-DU-LOUP, QUÉBEC, ALTO AND TENOR TROMBONE

**FRANÇOIS LÉVESQUE** is making a name for himself as a well-rounded musician. In Québec, he studied at the Conservatoire de Musique with Andrew Clayden. As a freelance musician François played with l'Orchestre Symphonique de Québec, l'Orchestre Symphonique de l'Estuaire and appeared at the Montréal Jazz Festival, Jazz à Vienne (France), and the Fribourg Montreux Jazz Festival (Switzerland) with the big band Sortie 210. Currently pursuing a Masters Degree at the University of British Columbia with Gordon Cherry, he is also a member of the Cascades Brass Quintet, 1<sup>st</sup> prize winners at the 2005 Coleman Chamber Music Competition. Not to be outdone, he also plays with the salsa group ¡Tanga! and performed at the 2006 Bali Art Festival in Indonesia with the UBC Balinese Gamelan Ensemble. I Tromboni is happy to have François in the group as he adds a keen musical mind, wonderful versatility and real pizzazz.

ALEXANDRE GAGNIER, SAINT-JOSEPH DE LA RIVE, QUÉBEC, BASS TROMBONE

Knowing that it was meant to be, **ALEXANDRE GAGNIER** began playing trombone at the age of twelve. Alex's formative studies began in Quebec City at the Conservatoire de Musique under the tutelage of Andrew Clayden. Subsequently he worked with Alain Trudel and Patrice Richer at the Conservatoire de Musique in Montreal where he received the coveted Premiere Prix with Great Distinction. As a freelance musician, Alex has played with many groups including l'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal and l'Orchestre Métropolitain du Grand Montréal. Alex is also co-Artistic Director of Choeur de Metal, a twenty piece brass and percussion ensemble which features some of the most talented young professional musicians from Quebec. Alex combines dazzling low register technique with undeniable power and I Tromboni is proud to have him on board as its newest member.

GREG PASSMORE, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, TENOR TROMBONE

**GREG PASSMORE** graduated from the University of Victoria with Distinction having studied with Canadian jazz trombone legend Ian McDougall. Greg's abilities as an orchestral player were recognized early as a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada. Always an eager and passionate section player, he is trombonist with the BC Chamber Orchestra and was Principle Trombonist of the Vancouver Island Symphony for 11 years. As a freelance musician, he has played with several fine ensembles including the Victoria Symphony Orchestra and Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. Greg brings his fervent commitment to precision ensemble, mesmerizing slide technique and an unparalleled enthusiasm for musical exploration.



JIM, NEAL, FRANÇOIS, ALEX AND GREG